

Indicator RECOMMENDED	Deaths from Illicit Drug Use
Justification	Deaths directly attributable to illicit drug use include drug psychoses, drug dependence, nondependent abuse of drugs, and polyneuropathy due to drug use.
Definition	Number of deaths directly attributable to illicit drug use per 1,000 population
Numerator	Resident deaths during a calendar year with ICD-9 codes 292, 304, 305.2-305.9, and 357.6 or ICD-10 codes F11.5-F11.9, F12.5-F12.9, F13.5-F13.9, F14.5-F14.9, F15.5-F15.9, F16.5-F16.9, F17.5-F17.9, F18.5-F18.9, F19.5-F19.9, F11.2-F11.4, F12.2-F12.4, F13.2-F13.4, F14.2-F14.4, F15.2-F15.4, F16.2-F16.4, F17.2-F17.4, F18.2-F18.4, F19.2-F19.4, F55, F11.0-F11.1, F12.0-F12.1, F13.0-F13.1, F14.0-F14.1, F15.0-F15.1, F16.0-F16.1, F17.0-F17.1, F18.0-F18.1, F19.0-F19.1 and G62.0 as the underlying cause of death
Denominator	Total resident population for the same calendar year
Data Sources	Death certificate data from vital statistics agencies (numerator) and population estimates from the U.S. Bureau of the Census (denominator)
Frequency	Annual
Geographic Levels	National, State, and County
Demographic Categories	Age by Gender by Race/Ethnicity
Strengths	Readily available for many years across all states
Limitations	Indicator only includes deaths; illicit drug-related morbidity is not reflected. Deaths in which drugs may have been a contributing but not primary cause are not included. The stability of this indicator is directly related to the size of the population in which these deaths occur. Therefore, this indicator may be unstable for less populated states and communities that have low numbers of annual deaths, especially when used for demographic subgroups. There also is variability in the procedures used within and across each state to determine cause of death.